IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (previously amended) A segmented keyboard adapted to provide user inputting of data, said segmented keyboard comprising:

a compliment of input keys comprising a segmented keyboard;

a central keyboard section;

a first flippable keyboard portion hinged to said central keyboard section and having an open and a closed position;

a second flippable portion hinged to said central keyboard section and having an open and a closed position;

an attachable numeric input pad, adapted to be optionally coupled with a flippable hinged portion of said segmented keyboard;

a first rotatable hinge coupled with said central keyboard section;

a second rotatable hinge coupled with said first rotatable hinge; and

an electrical connector coupled to said second rotatable hinge, wherein said electrical connector detachably couples said segmented keyboard to a portable electronic device.

2. (original) The segmented keyboard of Claim 1 wherein said electrical connector is adapted to couple said segmented keyboard with a portable computer system.

3. (original) The segmented keyboard of Claim 1 wherein when said first flippable portion and said second flippable portion are in said open position a compliment of input keys are accessible to a user for said inputting of data.

4. (previously amended) The segmented keyboard of Claim 1 wherein when said first flippable portion and said second portion are in said closed position, said segmented keyboard is of a size and shape approximate to the size and shape of said portable electronic device ~~a portable computer system~~.

5. (original) The segmented keyboard of Claim 1 wherein said first rotatable hinge is adapted to provide angular positioning of said segmented keyboard.

6. (original) The segmented keyboard of Claim 1 wherein said second rotatable hinge adapted to provide angular positioning of a portable computer system, when said portable computer system is coupled to said segmented keyboard.

7. (original) The segmented keyboard of Claim 5 wherein said angular positioning of said segmented keyboard provided by said first rotatable hinge enables optimum ergonomic positioning of said segmented keyboard relative to an individual user.

8. (original) The segmented keyboard of Claim 6 wherein said angular positioning of said portable computer system provided by said second rotatable hinge enables optimum view angle positioning of the display panel of said portable computer system relative to an individual user.

9. (original) The segmented keyboard of Claim 1 wherein the hinges of said first rotatable hinge and said second rotatable hinge are clutch hinges,

said clutch hinges are adapted to maintain an optimum ergonomic positioning of said segmented keyboard and to maintain an optimum view angle positioning of a display panel of a portable computer system with regard to an individual user.

10. (previously amended) A computer system having a portable computer and a segmented keyboard, said segmented keyboard detachably coupled with said portable computer, said segmented keyboard for providing user inputted data for said portable computer, said segmented keyboard comprising:

a compliment of input keys comprising a segmented keyboard;

a central keyboard portion;

a first flippable portion hinged to said central keyboard portion and having an open and closed position;

a second flippable portion hinged to said central keyboard portion and having an open and closed position;

an attachable numeric input pad, adapted to be optionally coupled with a flippable hinged portion of said segmented keyboard;

a first rotatable hinge coupled with said segmented keyboard;

a second rotatable hinge coupled with said first rotatable hinge; and

an electrical connector coupled to said second rotatable hinge.

11. (previously amended) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said electrical connector is adapted to detachably couple said segmented keyboard with said portable computer.

12. (original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said compliment of input keys are accessible to a user for said inputting of data

provided said first flippable hinged portion and said second flippable hinged portion of said segmented keyboard are in said open position.

13. (original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said segmented keyboard is of a size and shape approximate to the size and shape of said portable computer when said first flippable hinged portion and said second flippable hinged portion of said segmented keyboard are in said closed position.

14. (original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said first rotatable hinge is adapted to provide angular positioning of said segmented keyboard.

15. (original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said second rotatable hinge is adapted to provide angular positioning of said portable computer, provided said portable computer is coupled with said segmented keyboard.

16. (original) The computer system of Claim 14 wherein said angular positioning of said segmented keyboard provided by said first rotatable hinge enables optimum ergonomic positioning of said segmented keyboard relative to an individual user.

17. (original) The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said angular positioning of said portable computer provided by said first rotatable hinge enables optimum view angle positioning of the display panel of said portable computer relative to an individual user.

18. (original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said hinges of said first rotatable hinge and said second rotatable hinge are clutch hinges, said clutch hinges for maintaining an optimum ergonomic position of said segmented keyboard and maintaining an optimum view angle positioning of a display panel of a portable computer relative to an individual user.

19. (previously amended) In a portable computer system detachably coupled with a segmented keyboard, said segmented keyboard having a first rotatable hinge and a second rotatable hinge coupled with said first rotatable hinge, a method of optimizing the positioning of said segmented keyboard and said portable computer system relative to an individual user, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said segmented keyboard via said first rotatable hinge such that an optimum ergonomic position is obtained relative to an individual user; and

positioning said portable computer system via said second rotatable hinge such that an optimum view angle position is obtained relative to an individual user.

20. (original) The method as recited in Claim 19 wherein said hinges of said first rotatable hinge and said second rotatable hinge are clutch hinges, such that said clutch hinges maintain said optimum ergonomic position of said segmented keyboard and said optimum view angle positioning of said portable computer system relative said individual user.

CLAIM REJECTIONS
35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19

Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coulon et al. (U.S. patent no. 5,712,760), hereafter referred to as Coulon, in view of Kamikakai et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,154,359), hereafter referred to as Kamikakai and further yet in view of Miller (U.S. patent no. 6,392,870, hereafter referred to as Miller. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Previously Amended Claim 1 recites in part:

> an electrical connector coupled to said second rotatable hinge, wherein said electrical connector detachably couples said segmented keyboard to a portable electronic device.

Applicants previously amended Claim 1 to include the limitation of "an electrical connector coupled to said rotatable hinge, wherein said electrical connector detachably couples said segmented keyboard to a portable electronic device." This limitation is supported in the specification in numerous places including page 29 lines 1-4. Claim 1 including this limitation is not taught or rendered obvious over Coulon in view of Kamikakai and further yet in view of Miller.

Applicants agree that Coulon fails to teach or suggest a second rotatable hinge coupled with said first rotatable hinge, as claimed. However, Applicants

respectfully assert that Kamikakai alone, or taken in combination with Coulon and Miller fail to teach an electrical connector coupled to said second rotatable hinge wherein said electrical connector detachably couples said segmented keyboard to a portable electronic device, as claimed. In fact, the keyboard taught by Kamikakai actually teaches away from the claimed limitations of the present invention because the keyboard in Kamikakai is not detachable from the computer system. In fact, in the closed position, the keyboard of Kamikakai serves to protect the computer system. Removing the keyboard of Kamikakai would leave the computer system vulnerable to damage.

Applicants agree that Coulon fails to teach or suggest a second rotatable hinge coupled to the first rotatable hinge, as claimed. However, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited combination of Coulon, Kamikakai and Miller fails to render Claim 1 obvious because Miller fails to remedy the deficiencies of Coulon and Kamikakai because Miller fails to teach or suggest an electrical connector coupled to the second rotatable hinge, as claimed. As stated above, Coulon, Miller and Kamikakai, alone, or taken in combination, fail to teach an electrical connector coupled to said second rotatable hinge wherein said electrical connector detachably couples said segmented keyboard to a portable electronic device, as claimed.

Miller may purport to teach a portable computer keyboard. Miller may also purport to teach an electrical connector that detachably connects a keyboard to a computer. However, Miller and the claimed invention are very different. For example, Miller teaches "the keyboard communicates with an electronic device via a keyboard connector 534. The socket, plugs and keyboard connector are conventional (column 8 lines 62-65)." A conventional connector, as purported by Miller actually teaches away from the claimed invention because it is not coupled to the second rotatable hinge, as claimed.

The keyboard connector of Miller fails to teach or suggest rotating the keyboard with respect to the computer system when connected. In fact, the keyboard connector of Miller limits the orientation to a single viewing position that is determined by the location of the keyboard connector. For example, in Column 9 lines 21-24, Miller teaches "The connector 534 orients the hand-held device for convenient viewing of a display device when using keyboard 510. In other embodiments the electronic device can be permanently attached to the keyboard 510."

Figure 17 of Miller shows the electrical connectors 534 on the top surface of the keyboard and not coupled to a hinge of any kind. The keyboard connector of Miller allows a rigid connection between the keyboard and the electronic device. This is very different from electrical connector coupled to said second

rotatable hinge wherein said electrical connector detachably couples said segmented keyboard to a portable electronic device, as claimed.

For the foregoing rational, Claim 1 is not rendered obvious in view of Coulon, Kamikakai and further yet in view of Miller. Claim 10 includes similar limitations and therefore is not rendered obvious in view of Coulon, Kamikakai and further yet in view of Miller. As such, allowance of Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 9, 18 and 20

Claims 9, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coulon in view of Kamikakai and Miller as applied to Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19 above, and further still in view of Wahl et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,101,676), hereafter referred to as Wahl. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants agree that Coulon, Kamikakai and Miller fail to teach or suggest that the first and second rotatable hinges are clutch hinges adapted to maintain optimum ergonomic positioning of said segmented keyboard and optimum view angle positioning of a display panel of a portable computer system with regard to an individual user, as claimed. Wahl may teach a clutch hinge, but Wahl fails to remedy the deficiencies of Coulon, Kamikakai and Miller. In fact, Wahl teaches

away from the claimed limitations of the present invention by teaching a clutch hinge that does not have an electrical connector coupled thereto, as claimed.

Furthermore, as stated above, Coulon, Kamikakai, Miller and Wahl, alone, or taken in combination, fail to teach an electrical connector coupled to said second rotatable hinge wherein said electrical connector detachable couples said segmented keyboard to a portable electronic device, as claimed. Wahl fails to remedy this deficiency of Coulon, Kamikakai and Miller. As such, allowance of Claims 9, 18 and 20 is earnestly solicited.